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URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1952

URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

Committee: June, 1952 - May, 1953

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor O.T. Bowton

Members:

Councillor M. George
" C.E. Jefferies
" Mrs. H.D. Robinson
" R.G. Tayler

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor C.E. Marsh (ex-officio)

Meeting: Monday of the week preceding the date of the Council
meeting (held on the last Tuesday in each month) at
7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

L.H.B. LIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector:

KENNETH V. SPROAT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., (a) (b) (c)
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and the
Shops Act.

Clerk:

Mrs. E.M. Rezelman.

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board as Sanitary Inspector.
 - (b) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
 - (c) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
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INDEX

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
Statistics and social conditions of the area.	1
Vital Statistics.	2
Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.	
Tabular statement of the causes of death.	
Water Supplies.	3
Pollution of water courses.	
Inspections on complaint.	4
Summary of inspections.	
Inspection of Council Houses.	6
Factories.	8
Movable dwellings and camping sites.	9
Itinerant Rag & Bone Dealer.	
Rodent Control.	
Shops.	10
Housing Statistics.	11
Bakehouses.	12
Food Shops - exclusion of dogs.	
Dairies.	
Registration of food premises.	
Registration of manufacturers or vendors of ice-cream.	13
Bacteriological Examinations.	
Ice-Cream.	
Meat and other foods.	

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the District.

The mid-year estimate of population was 3,793.

The birth rate was 16.9 per thousand, as compared with 13.9 for last year; the death rate being 17.4 per thousand as compared with 13.6.

The infant mortality rate, i.e. the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births was 15.6. There were no such deaths during 1951.

There were no cases of diphtheria nor poliomyelitis, and for the first time since 1945, I am able to record that no fresh cases of tuberculosis were notified. Neither were there any deaths from this disease, the year 1948 being similarly worthy of note.

With regard to infectious diseases, there were no cases of measles (compared with 163 for the previous year), although there were 33 cases of whooping cough.

I am indebted to the Chairman and Members of the General Purposes Committee for their support and co-operation during the year, and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. K.V. Sproat, and his staff I tender my sincere thanks for their hard work and assistance.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. H. B. LIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1953.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area 5,525 acres

Population - Registrar- Général's estimate for mid-year 3,793

Ratable value at 1st April, 1952	...	...	...	£23,321
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---------

Product of a penny rate at 1st April, 1952 ... £92.10.2

VITAL STATISTICS

				M.	F.	
Live Births	(Total	...	...	30	34	{ Birth rate per thousand of estimated resident population: 16.9
	(Legitimate	...	...	29	34	
	(Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	
Stillbirths	(Total	...	...	0	0	
Deaths	...	...	...	32	34	{ Crude death rate per thousand of estimated resident population: 17.4

This includes 24 Inward and 1 Outward Transferable Deaths.

There were no deaths, either from puerperal sepsis, or other puerperal causes.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births 15.6

There were 7 deaths from cancer (all ages), but none from either measles, whooping cough, or diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Tabular Statement of Deaths classified according to ages:-

<u>Age</u>							<u>Number of Deaths</u>
under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5 and under	35	...	...	...	...	...	0
35 "	45	...	...	...	...	...	1
45 "	55	...	...	...	...	...	3
55 "	65	...	...	...	...	...	7
65 "	75	...	...	...	...	...	20
75 and over		...	...	...	...	...	34
Total							66

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Number of cases notified:	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough
	4	33
	Pneumonia	Dysentery
	3	1

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	6	12	18
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	9	19
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Pulmonary embolus	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Acute and chronic nephritis, uraemia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Haematemesis	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Congenital debility, malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Cerebral abscess	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Anaemia (aplastic)	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Senility	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Accident	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
(tetanus following compound fracture of leg)							

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

Throughout the year under review the public water supply to the District by the Council's Waterworks was adequate in quantity.

18 samples were taken from the water going into supply and all results were indicative of a water which was wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Reference was made in the Report for last year in respect of the replacement of the roof of the underground reservoir with a more suitable and durable material. The necessary work was carried out during the Summer by direct labour augmented by a local building firm. It was also found possible to increase the storage capacity at the same time.

With regard to the private sources of supply in the District, 3 wells, one of which supplied two pairs of farm cottages, were closed during the year. The four cottages were subsequently connected to a farm well, making a total of 20 properties supplied from this one source, 17 by means of a private main, the remaining 3 collecting as required. Statutory action had to be resorted to in one instance as a result of non compliance with the terms of an informal notice, reference to which was made in the Report for last year. In addition there still remains a further 13 properties served by private sources, 6 having a well each, 5 connected by means of private mains to another two farm wells and 2 more properties collect their water from the larger of these two wells as required.

In connection with the well situated in the farm yard, reference to which was also made in the Report for last year, following an interview with the owner at which advice was given, an informal notice confirming this was served calling for the repair of the brickwork steining. Unfortunately, or otherwise, during the execution of this the dome of the well collapsed and it became necessary to re-line completely with precast concrete tubes, which made a really first class repair job. However, until a further sample had been taken it was impossible to judge its effect on the bacteriological quality of the water.

Pollution of Water Courses

39 visits were made during the year in this connection and these all had reference to overflowing cesspools. Having regard to the fact that all properties with this form of drainage may have up to 4 free emptyings annually as part of the Council's cleansing services, this type of pollution is inexcusable. It appeared upon investigation, however, that this service was not common knowledge and as a result it was decided to circularise this information to the owners or tenants of all such properties, at the same time pointing out the provisions of Section 50 of the Public Health Act 1936 which make it an offence for the contents of any cesspool "to soak therefrom or overflow."

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number of complaints received in the Office was 312 as compared with last year's total of 395, the total visits made in this connection being 383 of which 266 were to Council houses.

With reference to the inspections made on complaint of premises other than Council houses, the number of defects or nuisances revealed was 84 which are analysed in Table I. Informal notices were at once served on the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned but it should be noted that both verminous "premises" were disinfested by request. A matter of some interest is that this included a vessel of 250 tons displacement, a former U.S. minesweeper which was being refitted locally for use as a luxury yacht and prior to arrival here had been engaged on passenger and cargo carrying between Malta and Syracuse. This was disinfested by means of DDT/Lindane Smoke Generators.

TABLE I

General housing defects	43
Offensive accumulations	1
Verminous premises	2
Rodent infestations - Proved	16
Suspect only	5
Blocked drains	2
Defective cesspools	1
Closets defective	2
Blocked sewers	12
	—
	84
	==

The two closets referred to in the above Table were both abolished and replaced by water closets which necessitated the construction of a cesspool drainage system.

Further information as to rodent infestation is reported under the heading "Rodent Control".

Summary of Inspections

Details of the number of inspections made for various purposes are given below together with the number of nuisances or defects found under specific headings. The total number of premises visited was 2145 which excludes those in relation to rodent control.

-5-
TABLE II

	<u>Inspection- made</u>	<u>Nuisances or Defects found</u>
Housing		
Inspections	58	
Re-visits re Notices served	185	
Enquiries	65	3
Factories		
Mechanical	20	14
Non Mechanical	9	5
Bakehouses	8	1
Building operations	13	10
Meat and Food		
Shops - Meat	13	
Wet Fish	2	
Wet and Dried Fish	18	
General Provisions	50	
Other	108	
Ice Cream Premises	44	
Dairies	11	1
Hotel and Restaurant kitchens	90	2
Oyster premises	2	1
Other food preparing premises	9	
General Sanitation		
Visits on complaint - Council Houses	266	422
Other	117	84
Re-visits re Notices served	156	
Re-visits other than above	39	
Council houses - other visits	252	
Movable Dwellings and Camping Grounds	34	5
Schools	2	
Shops Act - Sanitary Conditions	161	
Hairdressers	4	
Private Conveniences	59	
Petroleum Acts	21	9
Pollution of Water Courses	39	10
Rodent Control	749	37
Infectious Diseases	27	
Interviews	87	
Miscellaneous visits	8	
Supervision of painting	128	
Itinerant Rag & Bone Dealer	5	1
Disinfection	5	
	<u>2,864</u>	<u>605</u>

All housing applicants are visited by the Sanitary Inspector and a survey made of their existing accommodation. As a result of this work three cases of statutory overcrowding, involving a total of 19 persons, were discovered. It should be emphasised, however, that because in two of the cases referred to the overcrowding was due to family increase, and application had been made to the Council for suitable alternative accommodation, no offences had been committed under the Housing Act 1936. In the other case steps were taken by the owner of the property to secure the abatement of the overcrowding due, in this instance, to lodgers.

In the following table are summarised the nuisances and defects dealt with during the year:-

TABLE III

Roofs repaired	9
Rainwater gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	4
Walls repaired	2
External brickwork repointed or repaired	4
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	1
Floors repaired	1
Woodwork of windows and doors repaired	3
Sashcords, glazing and putties repaired or renewed	8
Stoves and fire grates repaired or renewed	2
Flues and chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	2
Dampness remedied	7
Offensive accumulations removed	1
Disinfestations	2
* Rodent infestations abated	23
Drainage	
Drains - Cleansed	2
Constructed or reconstructed	3
Gullies repaired	1
New inspection chambers constructed	2
Cesspools - New ones constructed	2
Repaired	1
Pail Closets abolished	2
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	1
Sewers - Cleansed	12
Water Closets	
New ones constructed	2
Repaired or reconstructed	1
Pedestal pans fixed	1
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	3
Water Supply	
Wells - Closed	3
Repaired	3
Sufficient water supply provided	6
Water supply piping or fittings repaired or renewed	2
Dairies - Floors repaired	1
Food premises - Floors repaired	1
Factories and work places	
Sanitary accommodation lighted	5
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
Abstract not posted up	8
	<u>134</u>

* Includes 7 "block" control schemes involving a total of 22 properties.

TABLE IV

Letters sent out and Notices served in connection with the work of the Department.

Letters	495
Informal Notices	95
Statutory Notices	<u>4</u>
	<u>594</u>

Inspection of Council Houses

Table V shows the various defects or items of disrepair which were the subject of complaint or were discovered as a result of inspections made and in connection with which instructions were given for the execution of the necessary repairs.

-7-
TABLE V

<u>Exterior</u>		
* Rainwater guttering and downpipes repaired or renewed	30	
Woodwork of doors and windows repaired	19	
Doors and windows eased	17	
Window fasteners and stays repaired	6	
Doors rehung	4	
Broken glass renewed	7	
* Roofs repaired	29	
Flues and chimney stacks repaired	8	
* Louvred chimney pots fitted	2	
Dampness remedied	8	
Gates and fences repaired	5	
External brickwork repointed or repaired	4	
Dustbins renewed	9	
* Rainwater Butts renewed	2	
Doors weatherproofed	8	
Clothes line posts repaired	<u>2</u>	160
<u>Drainage</u>		
Gullies repaired	9	
Blocked drains cleared	6	
Soil and Ventilating Pipes repaired	3	
Broken inspection chamber covers renewed	<u>2</u>	20
<u>Interior</u>		
Broken locks or lock furniture repaired or renewed	26	
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	4	
Redecorations (new tenancies)	2	
* Flaking kitchen ceiling redecorated	1	
Kitchen ranges - Repaired	6	
New firebricks fitted	2	
Renewed	1	
* Replaced with open fires	3	
Rayburn cookers - Safety Valve and Drain Taps repaired	4	
New firebricks fitted to	12	
New bottom grates	11	
* New fire box door handles	4	
Open fires - Tiled surrounds repaired	5	
Hearths repaired	2	
Fire-brick backs repaired	1	
Fire-brick backs renewed	5	
New stools supplied	3	
Floors repaired	4	
Faulty electrical fittings repaired or renewed	<u>17</u>	113
<u>Water Supply</u>		
Ball valves repaired to - Water Waste Preventers	35	
Storage Tanks	12	
Taps repaired	1	
New taps fitted	2	
Perished tap washers renewed	29	
Boilers repaired	3	
New ones fitted	1	
Hot water tanks - Repaired	1	
Renewed	1	
Hot water supply piping repaired or renewed	2	
Cold water supply piping repaired or renewed	6	
Stopcocks repaired or renewed	<u>2</u>	95
<u>Sanitary Facilities</u>		
Wash Coppers - Repaired	2	
New bottom grates fitted	1	
Wash Tub/Sinks repaired (legs and stays)	1	
Draining Boards renewed	7	
* Broken lavatory basins renewed	1	
Waste pipes repaired or unstopped	6	
Trapped waste pipes fitted	1	
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	9	
Perished W.C. cone joints renewed	5	
Plinths formed to rear edge of sinks	2	
Water Waste Preventers repaired	2	
New ones fitted	<u>3</u>	<u>40</u>
		<u>428</u>

Notes

During the progress of exterior painting (referred to in the final paragraph under this section) rainwater guttering was found to be so dilapidated as to require complete renewal at no less than half the total number of houses of the first post-war scheme.

The number of roofs repaired is largely evidence of the severe Autumn gales which occurred in this District but trouble was also experienced in the case of concrete flat roofs. Six were repaired during the year by the use of a proprietary chemical medium which waterproofs Portland cement mixtures permanently by causing a physical change in the cement itself.

It is probably a sign of the times that 2 requests were received from tenants for their rainwater butts to be removed (which were taken into store). The rainwater downpipes were then amended so as to discharge into existing gullies.

Following replacement of kitchen ranges at two properties with open fireplaces (see later note) complaints were made that the flues did not effectually carry away smoke. Scraping the insides of the pots alleviated the nuisance for a short time but the complete cure was found in fitting louvred tops; the flues having been constructed for ranges were obviously too large for the new fires.

The cause of the flaking kitchen ceiling referred to was quite possibly due to the use of a Gypsum plaster, which plasters provide little mechanical key for the proper adhesion of distemper. After brushing off all loose distemper and washing off, a coat of sharp colour was applied before re-distempering.

A further two tenants took advantage of the Council's scheme for the replacement of kitchen ranges with open type fireplaces, whereby the labour costs involved are borne by the Council.

Failure of the Rayburn fire box door handles was taken up with the Manufacturers who replied that the probable cause was overheating of the stoves. Upon investigation in no case had the optimum level of the fire bed been exceeded by the tenant and four replacement handles were supplied free of charge.

The lavatory basin referred to was broken due to mishap and the costs involved in supplying and fixing a new one were shared equally between the tenant concerned and the Council.

A total of 60 houses was painted externally during the year under review; 128 visits being made in connection with the supervision of this work.

Factories

50 visits were paid to factories and other premises; 9 to the nine non mechanical factories on the register, 28 to the twenty mechanical factories and 13 to the seven other premises at which Section 7 of the Factories Act 1937 is enforceable by this Council. In nine instances informal action was taken to secure the effective lighting of sanitary accommodation: three were remedied by the end of the year. There were also four cases, three occurring at building sites which were remedied within a few days, where sanitary accommodation was completely lacking. Seven instances of premises where the appropriate Notices were not posted up were reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites

During the year the number of sites licensed for this purpose remained at one and the number of movable dwellings licensed was four.

With regard to the caravan and camping site, informal action had to be taken on two occasions in order to secure the removal of dwellings which by reason of "class" did not comply with the conditions attached to the site owner's licence.

A Statutory nuisance arose on the Council's own site by reason of the overcrowding of a trailer type caravan so "as to be prejudicial to the health of the inmates". The cubic capacity of the caravan was approximately 355 cubic feet which included space occupied by lockers, bunks and other interior fittings, the dimensions being 5' 5" wide by 11' 11" long with an average ceiling height of 5' 5". There were no means of permanent ventilation and the only heating arrangements were a Calor Gas Cooker. The total number of occupants was four consisting of a young married couple with two small children, a girl aged 2½ years and a boy aged 1 year. The wife was also an expectant mother. The facts were reported to the appropriate Committee after which a formal Notice was served on the husband to abate the nuisance and for this purpose to cease the use of the caravan for human habitation.

The Notice was not complied with within the specified time limit and the matter was further reported for the issue of a Summons. It was impossible not to feel uneasy over the problem for although Parliament had laid down certain steps to be followed in dealing with such cases it could not have been foreseen that an acute shortage of proper housing would render it almost impossible for anyone in such a predicament to comply with the terms of the Statute.

The only possible answer was for the family to be rehoused by the Council but against this they were strangers to this District, truly "displaced persons" unwanted by any Local Authority, although the husband was employed locally.

This case is probably yet another instance of the need for review of all immediate pre-war legislation at the earliest possible opportunity.

Itinerant Rag and Bone Dealer.

It appears that the undesirable practice of dealing in old rags with children is once more on the increase and during November two persons, afterwards confirmed as being from the East End of London, were seen on the Orchard Road Housing Estate to be exchanging ball point pens and coconuts for rags and old clothes, persons below the age of 14 being involved. In a humorous vein it is very difficult to visualise a more appropriate article than a coconut as falling within the definition of both food and drink.

The facts were reported to the Council who instructed that the persons responsible be sent a warning letter.

Rodent Control

The year 1952 saw the introduction of a new rodenticide which obviates the accepted method of extermination known as "pre baiting" and poisoning. The killing power of this poison is based on the reaction of minute quantities of a chemical "dicoumarin" on the rodents' blood. These small quantities when fed to rodents continuously over a period of some three to ten days gradually cause the blood to lose its coagulating ability and death is due to internal haemorrhage - painlessly, quietly - but DEFINITELY.

In the following table is an analysis of inspections and visits made under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. The total number of properties inspected was 423, 18 as a result of notification. Whilst 37 rat infestations (9 major) were discovered there was none of mice.

TABLE VI

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including business premises)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	4	1281	27	161	1473
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of					
(a) notification	(a) -	15	2	1	18
(b) survey or otherwise	(b) 4	228	25	148	405
Total visits (excluding treatments)	39	417	89	221	766
Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats	Major - Minor 2	- = 22 = 4 suspect only	9 4	- -	9 28

19 infestations at dwelling houses were dealt with involving a total of 124 visits which includes the preliminary survey in each case.

Gassing by the "spoon" method using a proprietary preparation of absorbed sodium cyanide has proved to be a success in keeping down the rat population at the Sewage Disposal Works.

By arrangement with the Maldon R. D. C. their Rodent Operative enters this District in order to deal with infestations on agricultural property. In spite of the fact that all local farmers were circularised giving details as to the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations 1950, there were two instances when threshing was found to be taking place without the necessary fence having been erected. Needless to say a very strong warning was issued.

A series of permanent baiting points are now left down in the Depot and inspected and, if necessary, replenished from time to time.

The number of "block" control schemes carried out was 7 involving a total of 22 properties, 39 visits being made.

Sewer maintenance treatment was carried out during September. A test bait of 10% of the manholes in the District again showed there to be no infestation of the public sewers.

Shops

Reference was made in the Report for 1950 in connection with the provisions of Section 38 (Sanitary and other arrangements in shops) of the Shops Act 1950 to the effect that the arbitrary division of responsibility was unsatisfactory and administratively unsound. In this respect the County Council enquired in April whether this Council would be prepared to assume the responsibility of enforcing the provisions relating to lighting, washing facilities, and facilities for taking meals, if delegated by them, and the terms upon which this Council would be prepared to act. A reply was sent stating willingness and at a nominal sum.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952

1. Number of Houses erected during the year:-

(i) By the Local Authority	17
(ii) By Private Enterprise	<u>7</u>
	<u>24</u>

2. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

1(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	59
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	82
2(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	46
3 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	33

3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	19
---	----

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Bakehouses

The three Bakehouses in the District continued to be inspected regularly and no formal action was necessary during the year in order to secure satisfactory conditions.

Food Shops - Exclusion of Dogs

At the February Meeting of the General Purposes Committee consideration was given to Ministry of Food Circular 20/51 on the subject of excluding dogs from food shops, restaurants, etc. Following the meeting a letter, together with a reply slip, was sent to the Proprietors of all types of food premises in the District and approximately half the slips were returned within a few days. The result probably of the Press Report of the meeting. The remainder of the premises concerned were visited and the matter discussed with the responsible person. Arising out of this it was possible to report that only five food shops, viz. 1 restaurant, 1 fruiterer and greengrocer, 1 grocer and 2 general stores, would not be exhibiting the required notice. The obvious reason was a fear of loss of trade although in one instance, that of the grocer, the point was made that no foodstuff in his shop could be contaminated by dogs as none was displayed at floor level. An advertisement was also inserted in the local Press that a notice was to be exhibited in shops.

The difficulty was appreciated with regard to the licensed premises and a compromise was reached, the notice being posted up in the dining rooms only.

On the whole the public co-operated remarkably well.

Dairies

There are two dairies (not being Dairy Farms) on the register for the District. The total number of visits paid during the year was 11.

The following table shows the licences granted during the year for the sale of milk under special designation as provided by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949 & 1950:-

T.T. Milk	- 2 Dealer's Licences - 1 Dealer's Supplementary
Pasteurised Milk	- 1 Dealer's Supplementary
Sterilised Milk	- 1 Dealer's Licence - 2 Dealer's Supplementary

The number of separate vendors concerned was four. In addition one other person was registered as a Milk Distributor under the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 and retailed non-designated milk only.

A total of 6 samples was taken during the year and these were found to be satisfactory in every way.

Registration of Food Premises

This is secured by Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938. 17 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, including one where ice-cream is "manufactured" by reconstitution of a cold mix powder; and the number of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale was 3.

Registration of Manufacturers or Vendors of Ice Cream

This is secured by Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 and the number of persons so registered remained at 22.

Bacteriological Examinations

The Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., undertake bacteriological examinations in respect of water, ice cream and oysters for the Council through the Essex Bacteriological Laboratory Service. As from the beginning of April 1952 the bacteriological examination of samples of milk was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Westcliff Hospital, instead of the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle as formerly.

During the year under review 46 samples were forwarded for examination, 29 being samples of drinking water (18 public, 11 private), 9 of ice-cream, 6 of milk and 2 of oysters.

Ice-Cream

The bacteriological results of ice-cream are summarised below and it will be noticed that the presence of B. coli was not detected in any sample.

<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>	<u>Not Classified</u>
2	4	-	-	3

Only half the 1951 total of samples was taken, a reflection of the very early Autumn with a resultant fall in sales, but it is also worthy of note that none fell within Grades III and IV. The heading "Not Classified" relates to samples of fruit lollies.

Meat and other foods

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other articles of food found unfit for human consumption which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

<u>Tinned Foods etc.</u>	<u>Tins</u>
Fruit	5
Vegetables	12
Fish	4
Soup	4
Heinz Strained Foods	20

Other Foods

Dog Fish (Rock Eel)	3 stone 8 lbs.
Skate	2 " 6 "

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of the undermentioned canned meats.

	<u>Tins</u>
Minced Beef Loaf	1
Braised Pork Kidneys (Chopped)	7
Ham	9
Veal and Ham Loaf	1
Rabbit Casserole	3
Luncheon Meat	7
Stewed Steak and Gravy	1
Ox Tongue	1
Braised Pork Ox Hearts	1
Cambridge Sausage	1
Chicken Pate	1

